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8 BTM, LLC, an Arizona Limited Liability Company

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10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
11 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
12 **SOUTHERN DIVISION**  
13

14 BTM, LLC, an Arizona Limited  
15 Liability Company,

16 Plaintiff,

17 vs.

18 WILLIAM P. THOMAS, III, an  
19 individual; FRANK THOMAS, an  
20 individual; CAROLYN THOMAS  
21 WALTERS, an individual; and  
22 BARBARA THOMAS, an individual,

23 Defendants.

24 **AND RELATED COUNTERCLAIM**

CASE NO.: SACV14-00414 JVS (RNBx)

**STIPULATION AND ~~PROPOSED~~**  
**PROTECTIVE ORDER GOVERNING**  
**DISCOVERY MATERIAL**

25 To expedite discovery, facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over  
26 confidentiality, and adequately protect material entitled to be kept confidential, Plaintiff  
27 BTM, LLC and Defendants WILLIAM P. THOMAS, III, FRANK THOMAS, and  
28 CAROLYN THOMAS WALTERS, by and through their respective counsel of record,

1 hereby stipulate and agree to entry of this order governing discovery material pursuant to  
2 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 26(c) under the following terms and conditions:

3 1. Certain information, documents, and other things discovered from a party  
4 under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or voluntarily produced by a party in this  
5 action (“Discovery Material”) may include confidential or private information of the  
6 party from which the discovery is sought. Information, documents, and other things,  
7 which are otherwise not objectionable, shall be produced whether voluntarily or in  
8 response to formal discovery, subject to this Protective Order (“Order”).

9 2. Any of the parties producing Discovery Material in this litigation may  
10 designate Discovery Material produced by it/him/her as “Confidential” under the terms  
11 of this Order. This designation shall be limited to information which the disclosing party  
12 in good faith believes contains or reveals private, confidential, proprietary, or  
13 commercially sensitive information that requires the protections provided by this Order.  
14 For purposes of this Order, Discovery Material that may be designated “Confidential”  
15 includes all non-public materials which contain information reflecting or related to:  
16 employment files; personnel records; strategies for training or response; trade secrets;  
17 proprietary information; studies or analysis by outside expert(s) or investigator(s);  
18 proprietary technical information; financial or tax data; personal financial information;  
19 and/or personal information. A party may designate Discovery Material as  
20 “Confidential” that it believes contains or refers to trade secrets, non-public information,  
21 and/or private information that, if disclosed, could cause injury to the producing party.

22 3. Discovery Material that is designated “Confidential” and any documents or  
23 information derived therefrom, shall be used solely for purposes of this litigation  
24 (including appeals) and may not be used for any other purpose whatsoever, including but  
25 not limited to the purpose of dissemination to the media or the public, or in connection  
26 with any other litigation.

27 4. Discovery Material designated “Confidential” may be disclosed,  
28 summarized, described, characterized, or otherwise communicated or made available in

1 whole or part to the following persons: (a) outside and in-house counsel who represent a  
2 party in this litigation, and the regular and temporary employees and service vendors of  
3 such counsel assisting in the conduct of the litigator, provided such disclosure may solely  
4 be for use in accordance with this Order; (b) the parties; (c) independent experts and  
5 consultants retained in this action by the attorneys of record, and the employees of such  
6 experts and consultants who are assisting them; (d) the Court, its staff and any jurors  
7 before whom the case is tried; (e) court reporters employed by the Court or in connection  
8 with the litigation; (f) witnesses, or potential witnesses, to this litigation; (g) the authors  
9 or recipients of Confidential documents or persons referred to in any Confidential  
10 documents; and (h) any other person upon order of the Court or upon stipulation of the  
11 producing party.

12 5. The designation of Discovery Material as “Confidential” shall be so  
13 designated by affixing the legend of “CONFIDENTIAL” to each page containing any  
14 “Confidential” Discovery Material. Affixing the appropriate legend on the cover of any  
15 multipage document which is bound, stapled, or otherwise securely attached shall  
16 designate all pages of the document as “Confidential,” unless otherwise indicated by the  
17 producing party.

18 6. If the producing party inadvertently produces Discovery Material that it  
19 considers to be “Confidential” without such designation, the producing party may  
20 subsequently designate such Discovery Material as “Confidential” by delivering written  
21 notice of such designation to the other parties within a reasonable period after becoming  
22 aware of the inadvertent failure to designate such Discovery Material, with the effect that  
23 such Discovery Material will thereafter be subject to the protections afforded by this  
24 Order. The initial failure to designate information to accordance with this Order shall not  
25 be deemed a waiver of confidentiality.

26 7. In the case of depositions, the designation of Discovery Material as “  
27 Confidential” for purposes of this order shall be made (i) by a statement on the record, by  
28 counsel, at the time of such disclosure; or (ii) by written notice, sent by counsel to the

1 parties within twenty (20) business days after receiving a copy of the transcript thereof;  
2 and in both of the foregoing instances, by directing the court reporter that the appropriate  
3 confidentiality legend be affixed to the first page and all portions of the original and all  
4 copies of the transcript containing any “Confidential” Discovery Material. All deposition  
5 transcripts shall be treated as “Confidential” until the expiration of the twentieth business  
6 day after receipt by counsel of a copy of the transcript thereof. Thereafter, only those  
7 portions of the transcripts designated as “Confidential” in the litigation shall be deemed  
8 “Confidential” Discovery Material. The parties may modify this procedure for any  
9 particular deposition, through agreement on the record at such deposition, without further  
10 order of the Court.

11 8. “Confidential” Discovery Material may be provided to persons listed in  
12 Paragraph 4 (c), (e), (f), (g), and (h) above, provided that such individuals are using said  
13 “Confidential” Discovery Material solely in connection with this litigation and provided  
14 further that such individuals sign a nondisclosure agreement in the form of the  
15 Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit A.

16 9. In accordance with Local Rule 79-5.1, if any papers to be filed with the  
17 Court contain information and/or documents that have been designated as “Confidential,”  
18 the proposed filing shall be accompanied by an application to file the papers or the  
19 portion thereof containing the designated information or documents (if such portion is  
20 segregable) under seal; and the application shall be directed to the judge to whom the  
21 papers are directed. For motions, the parties shall publicly file a redacted version of the  
22 motion and supporting papers.

23 10. If information subject to a claim of attorney-client privilege, the attorney  
24 work product doctrine, or any other ground on which production of such information  
25 should not be made to any party is nevertheless inadvertently produced to such party or  
26 parties, such production shall in no way prejudice or otherwise constitute a waiver of, or  
27 estoppel as to, any claim of privilege, work product, or other ground for withholding  
28 production to which the producing party would otherwise be entitled. When a producing

1 party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently produced material is  
2 subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligation of the receiving parties  
3 are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B).

4 11. The parties to the litigation agree that the production of any Discovery  
5 Material by any non-party to the litigation and designated as “Confidential” shall be  
6 subject to and governed by the terms of this Order. Moreover, a party may designate as  
7 “Confidential” any materials produced by a non-party if such designation is appropriate  
8 under this Order.

9 12. In the event that additional parties join or are joined in the litigation, they  
10 shall not have access to “Confidential” Discovery Material until the newly joined party  
11 by its counsel has executed and filed with the Court its agreement to be fully bound by  
12 this Order.

13 13. The provisions of this Order shall become effective upon its entry by the  
14 Court or an alternative thereto that is satisfactory to the parties; however, all material  
15 produced and designated as “Confidential” in the manner prescribed herein prior to the  
16 effective date of this Order shall be subject to, and governed by, its provisions as through  
17 entered by the Court.

18 14. If any third party serves a subpoena or other process or request seeking to  
19 review any information designated as “Confidential,” the party to whom the demand is  
20 made (the “Recipient”) shall inform the producing party’s counsel immediately in  
21 writing. Nothing herein shall be construed as requiring the Recipient or anyone else  
22 covered by this Order to challenge or appeal any order requiring production of  
23 “Confidential” Discovery Material covered by this Order, or to subject himself, herself,  
24 or itself to any penalties for non-compliance with any legal process or order, or to seek  
25 any relief from this Court. Furthermore, nothing contained in this Order is intended to be  
26 construed as authorizing or encouraging a party in this action to disobey a lawful  
27 subpoena issued in another action.

28 15. Nothing in this Order shall bar or otherwise restrict counsel for any party

1 from rendering advice to their clients with respect to this litigation and, in the course  
2 thereof, from relying upon the examination of “Confidential” Discovery Material except  
3 in accordance with the terms of this Order.

4 16. Nothing in this Order, nor the production of any information or documents  
5 under the terms of this Order, nor any proceedings pursuant to this Order, shall be  
6 deemed to have effect of an admission or waiver by either party or of altering the  
7 confidentiality or non-confidentiality of any such document or information or altering  
8 any existing obligation of any party or the absence thereof.

9 17. This Order shall survive the final termination of this action, to the extent that  
10 the information contained in “Confidential” Discovery Material is not or does not  
11 become known to the public, and the Court shall retain jurisdiction to resolve any dispute  
12 concerning the use of the information disclosed hereunder. Within sixty (60) calendar  
13 days after the conclusion of this action in its entirety (including expiration of appeal  
14 periods or the execution of a settlement agreement among the parties finally disposing of  
15 this action), all parties and persons having received “Confidential” Discovery Material  
16 shall dispose of all such material either by (i) returning such material to counsel for the  
17 producing party, or (ii) destroying such material in a manner that ensures that it will not  
18 be disclosed to or disseminated or received by any person. Upon request, the parties and  
19 their counsel shall separately provide written certification to any producing party making  
20 the request that such disposal has been completed. Outside counsel for the parties shall be  
21 entitled to retain all court papers, deposition and trial transcripts, exhibits used in  
22 affidavits, at depositions, and at trial, and attorney work-product, including materials  
23 which contain, quote, discuss, or analyze “Confidential” Discovery Material, provided  
24 that such counsel and employees of such counsel shall not disclose such materials to any  
25 person unless, after reasonable prior notice to the producing party, the disclosing counsel  
26 has obtained permission pursuant to court order or by agreement of the producing party.  
27 The “Confidential” Discovery Material kept by counsel pursuant to this paragraph shall  
28 be maintained in accordance with the terms of this Order. Unless otherwise agreed,

1 outside counsel for each party may retain archival copies of all “Confidential” Discovery  
2 Material marked as an exhibit during a deposition, used at a hearing or at trial, or filed  
3 with the Court, and this Order shall remain in force with respect to such material.

4 18. This Agreement shall be binding upon and for the benefit of the undersigned  
5 parties, their successors and assigns. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any  
6 person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

7 19. In the event that counsel for a Party receiving Documents, Testimony or  
8 Information in discovery designated as “Confidential” objects to such designation with  
9 respect to any or all of such items, said counsel shall advise counsel for the Designating  
10 Party of such objections and the reasons therefore, and the counsel for the Parties shall  
11 confer in good faith in an attempt to resolve the objections. If no resolution can be  
12 reached following such good faith conferral, all the items in question shall continue to be  
13 treated as “Confidential” as the case may be, pending a resolution of the dispute by the  
14 Court. It shall be the obligation of the Designating Party to seek a hearing of the issue by  
15 the Court, and it shall be the obligation of all Parties to cooperate in the efforts to obtain  
16 such hearing. The motion shall be filed and served within fifteen (15) calendar days of  
17 the good faith conferral, or the designations shall be automatically eliminated. The  
18 Designating Party has the burden of establishing the applicability of its “Confidential”  
19 designation. All hearings shall take place no later than ninety (90) days prior to the trial  
20 date in the Proceeding, unless the facts requiring such a hearing are discovered by any  
21 Party after this ninety (90) day cut-off date. Any motion brought under this paragraph  
22 must be made in strict compliance with Local Rules 37-1 and 37-2 (including the Joint  
23 Stipulation requirement).

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20. This Order is not binding on the Court or Court personnel. The Court may amend or modify this Order in the interests of justice or for public policy reasons at any time.

**SO STIPULATED AND AGREED.**

Dated: September 29, 2014

HEATH & STEINBECK, LLP

By: /s/ Steven A. Heath

Steven A. Heath

Roger R. Steinbeck

Attorneys for Plaintiff BTM, LLC

Dated: September 29, 2014

THE WALKER LAW FIRM

By: /s/ Jason Matthew Lamb

Joseph A. Walker

Jason Matthew Lamb

Attorneys for Defendants William P. Thomas, III,  
Frank Thomas, and Carolyn Thomas Walters



**[PROPOSED] ORDER**

Good Cause Appearing, the Court approves and enters this Stipulation and Protective Order Governing Discovery Material.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: September 29, 2014



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Hon. Robert N. Block  
United States Magistrate Judge

**EXHIBIT A****AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND BY PROTECTIVE ORDER**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full name], of  
 \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full address], declare  
 under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated  
 Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Central  
 District of California on \_\_\_\_\_ [date] in the case of BTM, LLC v. Thomas,  
 et al. Case No. SACV14-00414 JVS (RNBx). I agree to comply with and to be bound by  
 all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that  
 failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of  
 contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or  
 item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in  
 strict compliance with the provisions of this Order. I further agree to submit to the  
 jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Central District of California for  
 the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such  
 enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

I hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full name]  
 of \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type  
 full address and telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in  
 connection with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this  
 Stipulated Protective Order.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State where sworn and signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

I am employed in the aforesaid county, State of California; I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within action; my business address is Heath & Steinbeck, LLP, 2500 Broadway, Suite F-125, Santa Monica, California 90404.

On September 29, 2014, I served the **STIPULATION AND [PROPOSED] PROTECTIVE ORDER GOVERNING DISCOVERY MATERIAL** on the interested parties in this action:

☒ **(BY E-MAIL OR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION)**

The document was served on the following via The United States District Court – Central District’s CM/ECF electronic transfer system which generates a Notice of Electronic Filing upon the parties, the assigned judge, and any registered user in the case:

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*Attorneys for Defendants and Counterclaimants William P. Thomas, III, Frank Thomas, and Carolyn Thomas Walters*

☒ **(FEDERAL)** I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, and that I am employed at the office of a member of the bar of this Court at whose direction the service was made.

Executed on September 29, 2014, here, at Santa Monica, California.

/s/ Steven A. Heath